

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated April 21, 2005. In the Office action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 based on JP 05-085462 A ('462), claims 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on JP '462 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,036,789 to Kelly et al., and claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 9 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for careful consideration of the application and for the indications of allowability. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, but nevertheless amend the claims as shown above and submit the following remarks.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 2-4

Original claim 2, which was indicated allowable, has been amended to include a combination of original claims 1 and 2 and to be rewritten in independent form. Amended claim 3 and original claim 4 depend on amended claim 2. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4 are allowable.

Claim 5-6

Original claim 5 has been amended to include a combination of original claims 1 and 5. Specifically, amended claim 5 recites a foam structure that is composed of a plurality of foam structures and is manufactured independently of the body of the watercraft. Thus, the foam

structure is not a structure of an unfixed shape, but is manufactured to have a predetermined shape conforming to the interior of the rear space. As a result, the foam structure is easily accommodated into the rear space. Such a construction is not disclosed in the combination of JP '462 and Kelly, nor any of the other cited prior art references.

Original claim 6 has been amended according to amended claim 5. Since amended claim 5 recites a plurality of foam structures recited in original claim 6, they are deleted from amended claim 6, which depends from amended claim 5.

For these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 6 are allowable.

Claim 9

Original claim 9, which was indicated allowable, has been rewritten in independent form to include original claims 1 and 9, and is now believed allowable.

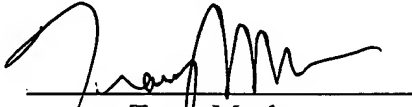
Claims 10-16

New claims 10 through 16 corresponding to original claims 2 to 8 have been added to depend from amended claim 9.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on August 9, 2005.



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Respectfully submitted,

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